financial assistance under regular plan schemes of the Tea Board for field and factory modernization, the Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.5.68 crore in the Eleventh Plan to upgrade the Darjeeling Tea Research and Development Centre as a Centre of Excellence.

Boosting measures to the development of retail market

612. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the 39th most preferred retail market in the world up from 44th position last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentive and boosting measures being given to the retail market development in the country and to place India in the No. 1 position in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) M/s CB Richard Ellis, a global real estate services company, in its Special Report 2009 Edition titled 'How Global in the Business of Retail', has ranked Indian as 39th among the countries which attract the most international retailers. The ranking has been done on the basis of percentage calculation of all possible overseas retailers (excluding the domicile retailers).

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised guidelines on lending to priority sector on April 30, 2007. According to these guidelines, retail trade lending includes advances granted to retail traders dealing in essential commodities (fair price shops), consumer cooperative stores and advances granted to private retail traders with credit limits not exceeding Rs.20.00 lakh. The target of total priority sector advances for domestic commercial banks was set at 40% of adjusted net bank credit (ANBC) or credit equivalent amount of off-balance sheet exposure, whichever is higher, while for foreign banks it was set at 32%.

Protecting Indian market from foreign goods

613. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign super market chains will break the Indian market;

(b) if so, the comments of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the Indian market from foreign goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade except in "Single Brand" product retailing, where FDI upto 51% is permitted, with prior Government approval and subject to the following conditions:-